Package to Karnataka for Agriculture

2302. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board has agreed to provide a Rs. 600 crore package to Karnataka for implementing various agriculture projects in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, which are the agricultural projects proposed to be implemented with the above package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) NDDB has on February 28, 2000 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Karnataka for various development projects in the State with an outlay of about Rs. 500 crores. The MOU broadly covers the areas of dairy development, animal husbandry, horticulture, oilseeds and revegetation. The areas of activity in dairying proposed for funding are in fact an extension of the project funded during Operation Flood and thereafter.

Relief Plan in Orissa by UN Agency

2303. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any U.N. Agency has formulated plan for providing relief in the cyclone affected areas of coastal Orissa;

(b) if so, what is its priority area for the purpose; and

(c) whether there is any seheme for generating self-employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The priority areas included provision of foodstuffs, supply of drinking water, shelter and prevention of epidemics.

(c) This concerns the Government of Orissa and no information in this regard is available from them.

New Crop Insurance Scheme

2304. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Ministry of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new Crop Insurance Scheme was inaugurated sometime last year for the benefit of the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the scheme has not evoked encouraging response in many of the States;

(d) if so, whether reasons therefore have been identified; and

(e) if answer to (d) above is in the affirmative, what steps have been taken to improve the scheme in order to ensure its greater acceptability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A new scheme titled "National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)—(Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojna) has been introduced for implementation in the country from Rabi 1999-2000 season. The new scheme which is available to all States/ UTs, envisages coverage of all farmers (loanee and non-loanee) growing foodgrains, oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops subject to the availabilty of past yield data. Cotton, Potato and Sugarcane crops are covered first time under Crop Insurance. Premium rates in respect of food crops and oilseeds range between 2.5% to 3.5% during Kharif and 1.5% to 2.0% during Rabi season. In case of annual Commercial/horticultural crops actuarial premium rates are charged.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Ten States and two Union Territory viz. Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mghalaya, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry have already given their consent for implementation of the scheme and some more States are likely to join from Kharif 2000 season.

However, some States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal etc. have suggested certain changes in the financial implications of the scheme. These suggestions would be considered at the time of the review of the NAIS.

Production and Consumption of Milk

2305. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production and consumption of milk in the country State-wise during December, 1999;

(b) what is the total demand for milk in the country;